

Amendments to Specification

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, lines 6-12, with the following:

In another preferred embodiment, the process is carried out in continuous mode. Here, the temperature range is preferably as specified above with respect to the general conditions, with 150-250°C being preferred, 170-220°C more preferred, and 180 to 210°C most preferred. Preferred continuous processes are described in U.S. Patent Application No.

[_____] 09/738,689 (Docket # CL1483), filed concurrently herewith (now U.S. 6,720,459 B2), and the provisional patent application 60/172,126, filed December 17, 1999, both of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, line 30-page 9, line 7, as follows:

The process of the present invention will provide polytrimethylene ether glycol with improvements in molecular weight, reaction times, and polymer color. The starting material for the present process can be any 1,3-propanediol reactant or a mixture thereof. The quality of the starting material is important for producing high quality polymer. The 1,3-propanediol employed in the process of the present invention may be obtained by any of the various chemical routes or by biochemical transformation routes. Preferred routes are described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,015,789, 5,276,201, 5,284,979, 5,334,778, 5,364,984, 5,364,987, 5,633,362, 5,686,276, 5,821,092, 5,962,745 and 6,140,543, U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/346,418 (now U.S. 6,277,289), 09/382,970 (now U.S. 6,342,646), 09/382,998 (now U.S. 6,284,930) and 09/505,785 (now U.S. 6,331,264), and WO 98/57913, 00/10953 and WO 00/14041, all of which are incorporated herein by reference. Preferably the 1,3-propanediol has a purity of greater than 99%. The 1,3-propanediol-based starting materials may be purified prior to use, for example by treatment with an acid catalyst at an elevated temperature and reaction time to react impurities into forms that can be separated as described in WO 00/10953, which is incorporated herein by reference.